

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)  
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)  
RENDERING INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (RIAB)  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 24, 2023**

**\*\*Minutes are considered “draft” until approved by the RIAB at the next meeting\*\***

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Room 133  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Item

No. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(1) **ROLL CALL**

Roll was taken by Mr. Koewler. A Quorum was established at 10:02 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Michael Koewler  
D.O. “Spike” Helmick Jr.  
James (Jimmy) Andreoli, II  
Brad Fleeman

David Isen  
David Belt  
Chris Friberg

**Interested Parties:**

Nick Pisca  
Valerie Pisca  
Dana Yount  
Terry Wigglesworth  
Vanessa Acuna

Andy Black  
Terry Wigglesworth  
Vanessa Acuna

**CDEFA:**

Paula Batarseh  
Jenna Leal  
Brittany Cardoza  
Maribel Urtez  
Ricardo Gonzalez-Marmolejo  
Dr. Ricardo Gaitan  
Penny Arana

Han Lai  
Dr. Fernando Umayam  
Dr. Chandrasekar Venkitasamy  
Andrew Halbert  
David Schurr  
Olivia Call

(2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Koewler asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from March 16, 2023.

**Motion #1:** Mr. James Andreoli, II made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Chris Friberg seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

**(3) BRANCH UPDATES**

Ms. Paula Batarseh began by introducing that MPES recently hired two new Special Investigators, Ms. Maribel Urtez and Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez-Marmolejo.

Ms. Batarseh stated that the branch is preparing for the hot weather and anticipated rendering disruptions by updating the “Extreme Heat Advisory” and working closely with the Animal Health Branch (AHB) on updating the landfill portion of the Advisory and reaching out to local governments and emergency managers. Other work related to extreme heat include finalizing the contract with the California Dairy Research Foundation to conduct composting research projects at different regions within the State and working with AHB on a composting training exercise funded by USDA under the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program.

Ms. Batarseh invited Mr. Andrew Halbert to present the Bagley-Keene update. Mr. Halbert stated that there is a proposed legislation on Senate Bill (SB) 544 maintains the notice requirements of pre-pandemic Bagley Keene but allows for teleconference participation (call in, zoom, teams etc.) with a few exceptions.

1. There still must be a physical primary location that is noticed, accessible to the public and attended by a staff or Board member
2. The notice must contain the information for the public to participate remotely
3. Board members who participate remotely must identify all persons in the room of the remote participant that are over the age of 18
4. All votes of the Board must be by roll call

Mr. Halbert explained if the primary location that is hosting the meeting loses connection, then the meeting must end immediately. Further, a notice must be sent to the public that the meeting had ended unexpectedly and when the meeting will reconvene.

Mr. Koewler asked if these rules apply to just the Board members or to the public as well. Mr. Halbert confirmed it just applies to the Board members. Mr. Andreoli asked if a physical Southern California location will be established for the next meeting. Ms. Batarseh confirmed CDFA will comply and work to establish a Southern California location for the next meeting.

**(4) SENATE BILL 1383**

Ms. Batarseh explained that CDFA is continuing to work closely with CalRecycle. She informed the Board that CDFA had a meeting with CalRecycle on May 12, 2023, regarding on-going projects. This meeting also focused on SB1383, the proper training of CalRecycle staff, as well as, website updates and “Frequently Asked Questions” being added to the CalRecycle website.

Ms. Cardoza explained to the Board CDFA has been focusing on municipalities and contracted waste haulers providing inaccurate information on the disposal of packinghouse waste. This has involved reviewing information and marketing materials that cities and waste haulers are providing to the commercial sector. What has been identified is outdated

information, as well as issues with the imagery on their marketing materials portraying raw meat and fish being allowed in the organics bins. Further, CDFA has been in contact with many cities and waste haulers and has been emailing out CDFA materials regarding the segregation of packinghouse waste, as well as a letter from Dr. Annette Jones on this matter.

Ms. Cardoza continued, that on March 27, 2023, CDFA had a meeting with Burrtec Waste Industries regarding a video on their website depicting packinghouse waste entering the organics bin provided to their commercial customers. She stated that Burrtec has since removed this video from circulation and is in the process of updating their marketing materials for the commercial sector. Burrtec has also advised CDFA they have not seen any raw material/packinghouse waste entering their disposal facilities. Ms. Cardoza advised the Board this is an ongoing project to review all city websites. There will also be ongoing follow up to ensure the cities and waste haulers have corrected the information on their websites.

Ms. Batarseh further explained to the Board that CDFA's primary focus of this outreach is on the commercial sector only. She reminded the Board that raw materials may be seen on marketing materials or on kitchen pails provided to the residential sector, but CDFA's focus is on packinghouse waste in the commercial sector. She encouraged the Board to report any issues they encounter on the implementation of SB1383.

#### **(5) COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGULATORY AGENCIES**

Ms. Batarseh updated the Board that CDFA's MPES and Animal Feed programs have been working closely with rendering industry representatives and California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the new Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulations. CDFA staff met with rendering industry representatives before the April 27<sup>th</sup> public hearing. Further, CDFA staff met with CARB staff on May 17<sup>th</sup> and emphasized that CDFA is interested in being involved in the implementation of the regulations and future stakeholders and public meetings, to provide our perspectives and bring renderers' voices and concerns to CARB. Ms. Batarseh also emphasized that CDFA recognizes the critical role played by renderers for California to meet the SB 1383 organics waste diversion and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Board members Mr. Andreoli and Mr. David Isen expressed their concern about lack of technology, capacity, and infrastructure for the implementation of the new rule for renderers, given the extensive service area each renderer is currently covering. Mr. Isen also stated that California is already behind on meeting the organics waste diversion goals. It will be even harder for the State to achieve the goals, if renderers are not granted delayed implementation schedules similar to those provided to waste haulers under the new rule.

Ms. Batarseh suggested that the renderers start documenting challenges to help regulators better understand and assist with addressing their concerns.

**(6) ENFORCEMENT/OUTREACH**

Ms. Cardoza informed the Board that there were two new Special Investigators added to the staff.

Ms. Cardoza then provided a brief update on enforcement. The first update was that there are still 20 transporters who don't have renewal paperwork completed due to various issues. The second was that five notice of violations have been issued since the last meeting totaling in \$7,250.00. Lastly, Ms. Cardoza provided an update that there are two significant criminal charges CDFA is involved in that are currently pending at the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Friberg asked what the feedback is from Los Angeles County local authorities on prosecuting people that are caught stealing product. Ms. Cardoza answered that she does not have an answer for that since the cases are pending, but that the prosecution varies on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Andreoli then asked what other actions CDFA can do to make an impact on prosecuting theft crimes. Ms. Cardoza answered that CDFA has the notice of violation but advised that those only affect licensed transporters. Mr. Andreoli then asked if there was a way to get another agency involved to which Ms. Cardoza confirmed that since the jurisdiction is based off the county the violation occurred in the charge falls under local jurisdiction. Mr. Isen recommended looking into an option where cars would be taken away for violations and Ms. Cardoza said she would look into that option.

**(7) REGULATORY CHANGES**

Mr. Halbert presented the proposed change to 3 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 1180.27(g) to include a fee for "Tank only Collection Centers" and asked the Board if they would like to determine the fee amount. Mr. Isen set a motion to create a subcommittee to determine a fee amount and he nominated himself as chair of the subcommittee. Mr. Andreoli made the first motion and nominated himself to join the committee. Mr. David Belt seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Halbert then reviewed section 3 CCR 1180.20(b) and proposed the language be changed to match the language of the Inedible Kitchen Grease hauler. Mr. Andreoli made the first motion to update the language and Mr. Friberg seconded the motion.

To close, Mr. Halbert reviews the Barbiturate Regulation and opens questions from the Board. Mr. Andreoli asked if there is any enforcement on violations of this regulation. Mr. Halbert confirmed the current enforcement codes also apply to this regulation. Mr. Andreoli then asked what the penalties are if a veterinarian violates the regulation and Mr. Halbert confirmed he did not know the penalty but can work with Dr. Jones to get that answer. Mr. Halbert then asked Dr. Fernando Umayam if there were any penalties in place, to which he stated that investigations are conducted that determine the penalty involved depending on the level of the violation.

**(8) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

**(9) FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items:

- Coordination with Regulatory Agencies
- CalRecycle SB 1383
- CARB: Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF– Electric Vehicle Discussion)
- Regulation Language – Barbiturates
- Regulation Changes – tank only collection centers, marking on the vehicle of licensed dead animal haulers

The next RIAB meeting will be scheduled for early September 2023. CDFR staff will send a poll to determine the date and will notify all concerned once it is finalized.

**(10) UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES**

**Motion #2:** Mr. Brad Fleeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Andreoli seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Olivia Call